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July 1, 2016

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To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
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Supervisor Don Knabe
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From: Sachi A. Hamai 
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains reports on the following:

- **Pursuit of County Position to Support HR 56 (Santiago and Ting).** This measure requests that Governor Brown declare a state of emergency on homelessness. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with the Board action of June 14, 2016, which directed this office to send a five-signature letter to the Assembly and the Senate asking them to pass a resolution urging the Governor to declare a state of emergency in California due to the increased number of homeless individuals, **the Sacramento advocates will support HR 56.**
- **Pursuit of County Position to Oppose SB 958 (Lara and Hall).** This measure would establish a Citizens Redistricting Commission, in only Los Angeles County, to adjust the boundaries of its supervisorial districts after each decennial United States Census. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to oppose any abridgement or elimination of the Board of Supervisors' powers and duties unless the change promotes a higher priority of the Board, **the Sacramento advocates will oppose SB 958.**

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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- **Change in Pursuit of County Position on County-Supported SB 1235 (De León).** This measure, related to the creation of a new regulatory framework for the sale and purchase of ammunition in California, was amended on June 22, 2016. As amended, SB 1235 would create the Safety for All Act of 2016 to be submitted for voter consideration at the November statewide general election. If enacted, the Act would allow the sale of ammunition only to persons holding an ammunition purchase authorization. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, **the Sacramento advocates will remove the County's support position on SB 1235, and take no position on the bill.**
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Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

HR 56 (Santiago and Ting), which as introduced on June 28, 2016, requests that Governor Brown declare a state of emergency on homelessness. The resolution also indicates that the Assembly recognizes that the challenge of confronting homelessness requires the active engagement and leadership of all arms of the government, and that the Legislature must prioritize taking action on homelessness prior to the adjournment of the 2015-16 Legislative Session.

HR 56 makes various legislative findings regarding the human impact of homelessness in California and notes the lack of available resources to address this issue. The resolution acknowledges actions taken by cities, such as San Francisco and Los Angeles, to address homelessness and specifically cites the Board's unanimous approval of Los Angeles County's Homeless Initiative and the allocation of \$100 million in one-time funding for homeless services.

Therefore, unless otherwise directed, consistent with the Board action of June 14, 2016, which directed this office to send a five-signature letter to the Assembly and the Senate asking them to pass a resolution urging the Governor to declare a state of emergency in California due to the increased number of homeless individuals, **the Sacramento advocates will support HR 56.**

Currently, there is no registered support or opposition on file for this measure. HR 56 passed the Assembly Floor by a vote of 59 to 11 on June 30, 2016. This measure now proceeds to the Governor.

SB 958 (Lara and Hall), which as amended on June 21, 2016, would establish a Citizens Redistricting Commission, in only Los Angeles County, to adjust the boundaries of its supervisorial districts after each decennial United States (US) Census. Current law requires a county board of supervisors to adjust the boundaries of supervisorial districts every ten years following the US Census. Existing law permits a board of supervisors to appoint an advisory committee of county residents to study supervisorial district boundaries and recommend changes if needed. Federal and State laws govern the redistricting process that the board of supervisors must follow.

The Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) proposed under SB 958 would consist of 14 members who meet the following qualifications: 1) County residency; 2) continuous voter registry in the County for at least five years without a change in political party; 3) having voted in at least one of the last three statewide elections; and 4) experience that demonstrates relevant analytical skills, an ability to comprehend and apply State and Federal requirements, impartiality, and an appreciation for the County's demographics and geography. The bill would require at least one commissioner to reside in each of the five existing supervisorial districts. It would also require the board of supervisors to provide funding and staffing for the CRC.

Additionally, SB 958 would establish disqualifying factors for CRC membership looking back ten years and extending to the immediate family members of applicants, including a spouse, child, in-law, parent, or sibling. Disqualifying factors would include: 1) elected officials and staff; 2) appointed officials; 3) candidates for office and staff; 4) political party officials and staff; and 5) registered lobbyists. Commission members would also be ineligible for three years beginning from the date of appointment to: 1) hold appointive Federal, State, or local public office; 2) serve as paid staff for, or as a paid consultant to the Board of Equalization, the US Congress, the State Legislature, or any individual legislator; or 3) register as a Federal, State, or local lobbyist in California.

Under SB 958, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) would select the names of the 60 most qualified applicants. The RR/CC would be prohibited from communicating with the Board of Supervisors on the matter of CRC applications prior to the publication of the qualified list of applicants. At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Auditor-Controller would randomly select one commissioner from each of the County's five existing supervisorial districts. The Auditor-Controller would then randomly select three additional commissioners from all of the remaining applicants, without regard for supervisorial district. The eight randomly-selected commissioners would then choose the remaining six commissioners based on specific criteria, including political party affiliations, to ensure the political makeup of the commission reflects the party preference of registered voters in the County.

SB 958 would establish detailed guidelines for adjusting the supervisorial district boundaries, including: 1) reasonably equal population; 2) geographic contiguity; 3) maintaining the geographic integrity of local jurisdictions, neighborhoods, or communities of interest; 4) geographic compactness; 5) no consideration for the residence of any incumbent or candidate; and 6) no favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, candidate, or political party. The bill would subject the commission to the Ralph M. Brown Act, which governs open public meetings. It would further require the CRC to conduct public hearings, post notices, and a draft map for public comment on the County's website, and adopt a redistricting plan by a certain date.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk notes that SB 958 would significantly expand the Department's duties. However, the RR/CC reports that it has the capability to carry out the provisions of the bill, but would need to conduct further analysis to clarify the roles, responsibilities, and resources that would be needed for implementation. The Department indicates that the bill would not have a significant operational or financial impact because the proposed redistricting process would take place every ten years. However, the Department notes that some of the commissioner qualifications in SB 958 are of concern because they could be perceived as subjective.

County Counsel reports that SB 958 could subject the County to increased liability for CRC applications found to be misleading or fraudulent after the selection process has been completed. County Counsel further notes that this measure would reduce the authority of the Board of Supervisors but increase the County's exposure to litigation.

This office opposes SB 958. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to oppose any abridgement or elimination of the Board of Supervisors' powers and duties unless the change promotes a higher priority of the Board, **the Sacramento advocates will oppose SB 958.**

SB 958 is supported by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and the League of Women Voters of California. The bill is opposed by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

SB 958 passed the Assembly Local Government Committee by a vote of 6 to 3 on June 29, 2016. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Related legislation, **SB 1108 (Allen)**, which as amended on June 8, 2016, would provide all county board of supervisors or city council the option to establish a local citizens redistricting commission that would independently change supervisorial or council district boundaries. SB 1108 would grant counties and cities the flexibility to

create an independent redistricting commission if doing so would best reflect the needs, priorities, and values of the communities represented. SB 1108 passed the Assembly Local Government Committee by a vote of 6 to 1 on June 29, 2016. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

SB 1331 (Chapter 508, Statutes of 2012), which was sponsored by San Diego County, established the San Diego County Independent Redistricting Commission to meet the unique needs of the residents of that County.

Change in Pursuit of County Position

County-supported SB 1235 (De León), which as amended on May 17, 2016, would create a new regulatory framework for the sale and purchase of ammunition in California, was amended on June 22, 2016.

As amended, SB 1235 would create the Safety for All Act of 2016 to be submitted for voter consideration at the November 2016 statewide general election. If approved by voters, the Act would, beginning January 1, 2019, allow the sale of ammunition only to persons holding an ammunition purchase authorization or to persons who were approved by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to receive a firearm from the ammunition vendor if the ammunition is delivered in the same transaction as the firearm. The Act would allow persons with the following qualifications to apply to the DOJ for ammunition purchase authorization, those: 1) who are 18 years of age or older; 2) whose information matches an entry in the DOJ Automated Firearms System, which connects firearms with owners and identifies lost or stolen firearms; and 3) who do not fall within a class of persons who are legally prohibited from possessing ammunition (as cross-referenced with the State's Prohibited Armed Persons File).

Additionally, SB 1235, as amended, would provide that if the Safety for All Act of 2016 is not enacted by the voters, the measure's original legislative provisions would take effect. As previously reported, these provisions would: 1) beginning on January 1, 2018, provide that only a licensed vendor may sell ammunition; and 2) authorize the DOJ to accept applications for ammunition vendor licenses starting on July 1, 2017. Related to the purchase of ammunition, the provisions would require the DOJ to: 1) electronically approve the purchase or transfer of ammunition through a vendor; 2) deny the transaction if a purchaser's or transferee's information does not match the DOJ Automated Firearms System; and 3) deny the transaction if the purchaser or transferee falls within a class of persons who are prohibited from possessing ammunition by cross-referencing the Prohibited Armed Persons file.

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Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, **the Sacramento advocates will remove the County's support position on SB 1235, and take no position on the bill.** If this measure is enacted, the County's position on the Safety for All Act of 2016 would be a matter of Board policy determination.

This measure passed the Assembly Floor by a vote of 44 to 29 on June 30, 2016. This measure now proceeds to the Governor for his consideration.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
PC:IGEA:gl

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participant